



UNUSUAL TALES

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UNUSUAL TALES

A CHARLTON PUBLICATION

WILL POWER

I AM YOU JOHN

THE DECISION





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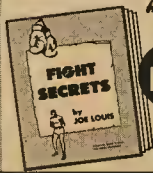
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UNUSUAL TALES

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## UNUSUAL TALES

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*Alfred P. Fago* Executive Editor

# WILL POWER

THERE WAS NO WOMAN IN THE WORLD MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN SHE WHO STOOD MOTIONLESS IN THE SHADOWS BEFORE ME! BUT EVEN AS I STARED AT HER, SORROW WAS LIKE A SHARP CHISEL WITHIN ME...



I WAS SORROWFUL THAT ONE SO BEAUTIFUL SHOULD BE ONLY A STATUE ...



SHE SHOULD BE MORE THAN COLD MARBLE! SHE SHOULD BE AS WARM AS THE WARMTH HER BEAUTY MAKES OTHERS FEEL WHEN THEY VIEW HER!



SUCH BEAUTY AS HERS SHOULD BE CAPABLE OF FLUID MOTION...AND NOT BE DOOMED TO STAND FOREVER IMMOBILE IN THE COLD CORNER OF A MUSEUM GALLERY.

# UNUSUAL TALES

SUCH BEAUTY SHOULD BE EMPOWERED TO WALK THE WORLD OVER, SO ALL MANKIND MIGHT SEE HER, AND BE ENNOBLED AND ENHEARTENED BY THE SEEING! AND POETS AND MUSICIANS MIGHT SING HER PRAISES...

...BUT THESE WERE IDLE DREAMS! FOR SHE WAS ONLY A STATUE FASHIONED BY SOME OBSCURE CRAFTSMAN OF ANTIGUITY WHO HAD LONG CRUMBLLED INTO DUST! ONLY A STATUE SEEN BY THE FEW INSTEAD OF THE MULTITUDES... AND BY ME...



BUT THEN ONE DAY, A MEANS OCCURRED TO ME OF MAKING THOSE DREAMS LESS IDLE...

WILL POWER! I HAVE HEARD PEOPLE SPEAK OF THE STRANGE FEATS EFFECTED BY WILL POWER WHEN REINFORCED BY LOVE FOR ANOTHER!



I HAVE LOVED HER AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER! WHAT IF I GATHERED TOGETHER EVERY OUNCE OF WILL POWER IN MY BEING... WHAT IF I TRIED TO WILL HER TO LIFE?

AND SO...



I LOVE YOU...  
I LOVE YOU...  
**COME TO LIFE...  
COME TO LIFE..**



## UNUSUAL TALES

SLOWLY... SLOWLY... A VIBRANT FLUSH SPREAD OVER WHAT HAD FOR SO LONG BEEN ONLY COLD MARBLE...



PUPILS MATERIALIZED ON WHAT HAD BEEN STONE-BLANK EYES... HER BEAUTIFUL LIPS PARTED IN A WONDERING SMILE...



LANGUOROUSLY STRETCHING AND YAWNING, SHE STEPPED DOWN FROM THE PEDESTAL...



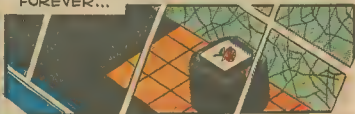
NOW SHE WAS WALKING TOWARD ME, EXACTLY AS I HAD ALWAYS DREAMED! IF I COULD HAVE WEPT AT THAT MOMENT, MY EYES WOULD'VE BEEN BLINDED BY TEARS OF JOY.



BUT SHE DID NOT STOP BEFORE ME... SHE WALKED RIGHT BY! I TRIED TO CALL OUT TO HER, BUT MY LIPS WERE SEALED...



AND SO NOW THE GALLERY CORNER IS EMPTY! SHE, WHO WAS BROUGHT TO LIFE BY MY WILL POWER, HAS GONE OUT EAGERLY INTO THE WORLD OF THE LIVING, NEVER TO RETURN! I CAN FEEL SORROW INSIDE ME AGAIN, AND I SHALL FEEL THE PAIN FOREVER...



...FOR WHO IS LEFT TO WILL ME TO LIFE, NOW THAT SHE HAS GONE ?!



END



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UNUSUAL TALES

# THE DECISION

THEY WERE THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF ALL THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD! THEIRS WERE THE KEENEST MINDS OF THE UNIVERSE... THEY REPRESENTED A LIVING COMPENDIUM OF ALL EXTANT KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM...

WE HAVE MET HERE  
ON THIS FOURTH DAY  
OF AUGUST,  
2374 A. D. //

...TO CONSIDER THE  
SOCIAL UTILITY OF  
XT 314.!

THE MULTITUDES WAITED  
TENSELY AS THE SAGES  
DEBATED ...

WHY ARE  
THEY TAKING  
SO LONG?

IT IS  
GOOD THAT  
THEY ARE  
NOT HASTY!

DITKO



# UNUSUAL TALES

...THE DECISIONS OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL AFFECT ALL MANKIND. / THEY HAVE NEVER MADE A WRONG DECISION YET. / LET US HOPE THEY NEVER WILL.

AT LAST A VOTE WAS TAKEN.

OUR DECISION IS U-NANIMOUS. / MODEL "XT 314", A THOUSAND UNITS OF WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN MANUFACTURED, IS HEREBY DECLARED A MENACE TO MANKIND.

HOWEVER, RATHER THAN DESTROY THIS MOST RECENT PRODUCT OF MANKIND'S INGENUITY, WE DECREE THAT THE UNITS ALREADY IN EXISTENCE BE STORED AWAY IN SOME ISOLATED WAREHOUSE FOR STUDY BY SCIENTISTS OF THE FUTURE.

AND SO THIS WAS THEIR DECISION. / AND THE THOUSAND UNITS OF XT 314, THE MOST ADVANCED ROBOT PRODUCED TO DATE, SO ADVANCED THAT IT EVEN CONTAINED EMOTION COILS, WERE PREPARED FOR STORAGE...

THEY SHOULD HAVE DESTROYED THEM IF THEY'RE SO DANGEROUS.

COULD BE -- BUT THE COUNCIL'S NEVER BEEN WRONG YET.

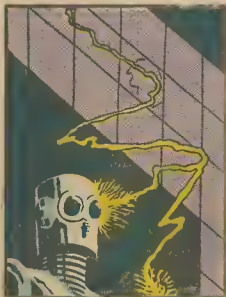
TWENTY YEARS HAD PASSED SINCE THAT FATEFUL DECISION. / AND THOSE INTRICATELY WIRED UNITS OF METAL, INACTIVATED BY THEIR DYNAMOS HAVING BEEN REMOVED, WERE STILL LINED UP, THEIR METAL SHOULDERS PRESSED TIGHTLY TOGETHER, AGAINST THE WALLS OF THE DESOLATE WAREHOUSE...

BUT THEN ONE NIGHT A FIERCE ELECTRICAL STORM AROSE. / THE HIGH WINDS SHATTERED ONE OF THE WAREHOUSE WINDOWS...

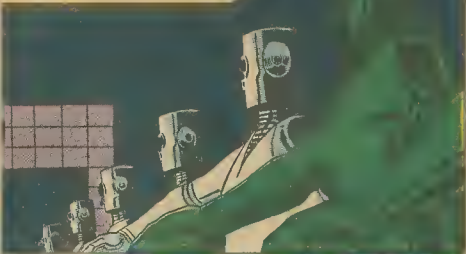


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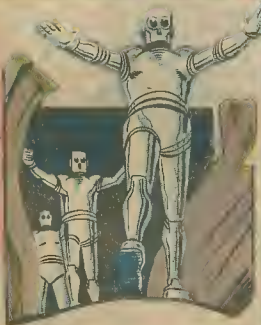
A LIGHTNING BOLT ZIG-ZAGGED INSIDE...



...AND PROVIDED THE ELECTRICAL IMPULSE REQUIRED TO BRING THE ROBOTS TO 'LIFE'! THEY ROSE PONDEROUSLY, EN MASSE, THEY MOVED TOWARD THE DOOR...



THE MASSIVE DOOR SPIN-TERED OPEN! THEY MARCHED MENACINGLY FORWARD, THEIR EMOTION COILS SEETHING WITH MENACE...



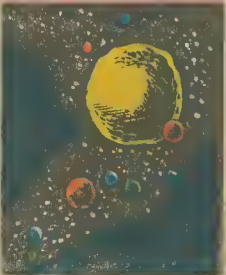
...THEIR METAL EYES PROBING THE DESOLATE LANDSCAPE FOR MEN ON WHOM THEY COULD WREAK VENGEANCE FOR HAVING BEEN IMPRISONED SO LONG...



ANOTHER TWENTY YEARS HAD PASSED... AND THEY WERE STILL MARCHING... BUT AS YET THEY HAD NOT FOUND A SINGLE MAN...



...FOR THEIR WAREHOUSE HAD BEEN THE ONLY BUILDING ON A SMALL UNINHABITED ASTEROID...



WE CAN THANK OUR LUCKY STARS THE SUPREME COUNCIL DECIDED TO PUT THE WAREHOUSE UP THERE WHERE NOBODY COULD GET HURT, NO MATTER WHAT WENT WRONG.

THEY HAVE NEVER MADE A WRONG DECISION YET! LET'S HOPE THEY NEVER WILL.



END



## UNUSUAL TALES

IT WAS DURING THE WAR, WHEN TENSIONS RAN HIGH AND DEATH WAS EVER IMPENDING THAT FRED NORCROFT BECAME AWARE OF...

# The GREAT GIFT

SARGE, THAT DON'T MAKE SENSE! IF THE JAPS WENT DOWN BY THE RIVER, THEY'D BE WIDE OPEN TO BE CAUGHT BY A TRAP.'

BUT I CAN SEE 'EM, BILL! THEY'RE DOWN THERE ABOUT A MILE.' I HEARD 'EM PLAN TO GO THAT WAY BECAUSE THEY THINK WE WOULDN'T EXPECT 'EM TO.'



THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I HAD SEEN A VISION, I LED THE MEN WHO LOOKED AS IF THEY THOUGHT I WAS NUTS...



WE FOUND THE ENEMY PATROL JUST WHERE I SAID WE WOULD! THEY WERE PLANTING MINES, AND WE TOOK 'EM BY SURPRISE...



# UNUSUAL TALES

LATER, BACK IN OUR OWN LINES...

HOW COME YOU KNEW THAT, SARGE? YOU GOT A RADAR SCREEN IN YOUR HEAD?

I DON'T KNOW! MAYBE IT'S JUST A FREAK, A SECOND SIGHT! I'VE HEARD ABOUT THOSE THINGS!



IT PROBABLY WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN! I JUST SAW 'EM MOVING THERE! AS IF I HAD A ROVING CAMERA THAT WAS CDNECTED WITH MY HEAD!

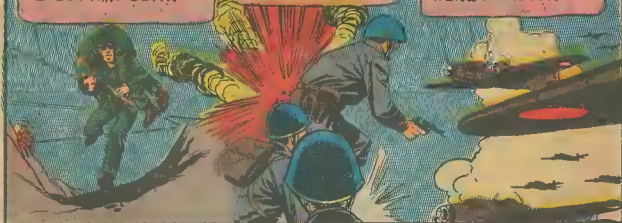


BUT THE VISIONS KEPT COMING, EVEN BEFORE THEY HAPPENED! OVER AND OVER, I WAS ABLE TO SEE THE ENEMY, EVEN HEAR THEM TALKING OVER THEIR PLANS...

A SHORT TIME AFTER THE PATROL EPISODE, I HAD A VISION OF CAPTAIN GEORGE BECKER LYING WOUNDED IN A GULLY. I GOT HIM OUT...

LATER, I SAW IN MY MIND THAT THE ENEMY WAS MAKING A SURPRISE ATTACK! WE WERE READY FOR THEM...

ANOTHER TIME I SAW A SQUADRON OF JAP BOMBERS READYING! WHEN THEY ARRIVED THE PLACE WAS EVACUATED, OUR FIGHTERS WERE READY...



FINALLY IT WAS OVER! AT THE TIME, IT WAS NOT IMPORTANT WHAT THE CHAPLAIN SAID TO ME...

YOU HAVE A GREAT GIFT, MY SON! SEE THAT YOU USE IT WISELY, THAT YOU DO NOT ABUSE IT!

I WON'T, FATHER!



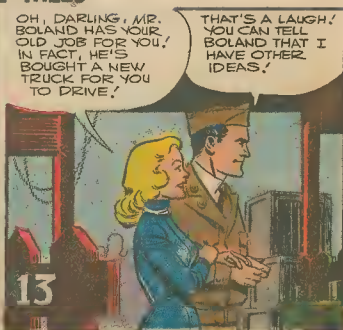
AND IN TIME I WENT HOME...



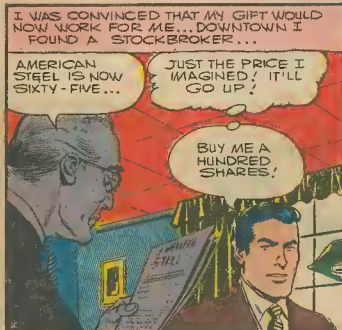


# UNUSUAL TALES

AND LOVE WAS WAITING IN THE PERSON OF AMY LAV-TON, MY FIAN-CEE...



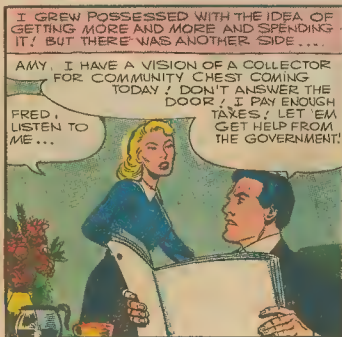
# UNUSUAL TALES



IT WAS A MONTH LATER WHEN I SOLD MY STOCK AT NINETY AND CAME HOME WITH ALMOST TWENTY-FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS...



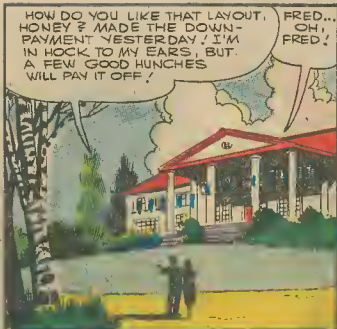
WITHIN A YEAR I MADE A FABULOUS AMOUNT OF MONEY AND SPENT IT AS FAST AS I MADE IT...





# UNUSUAL TALES

I DROVE OUT INTO THE COUNTRY-- IT WAS THE BIG SURPRISE FOR OUR SECOND ANNIVERSARY...



HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT LAYOUT, HONEY? MADE THE DOWN-PAYMENT YESTERDAY. I'M IN HOCK TO MY EARS, BUT A FEW GOOD HUNCHES WILL PAY IT OFF.

FRED... OH, FRED!

FRED, THAT PLACE WILL NEED SERVANTS, GARDENERS, AND... I'VE GOT A LOVELY HOUSE ALREADY!

STOP THINKING SMALL, AMY! YOU'LL GET THE FEEL OF HAVING THINGS BEFORE I'M THROUGH!



I DROVE AMY HOME AND WENT TO THE OFFICE I HAD OPENED A YEAR BEFORE. I HAD TO DREAM UP SOME FANCY STOCK BUYS, BUT...



WHY DOESN'T IT COME? WHY CAN'T I GET ANY IDEAS? NO PICTURES COME. MY MIND'S A BLANK!

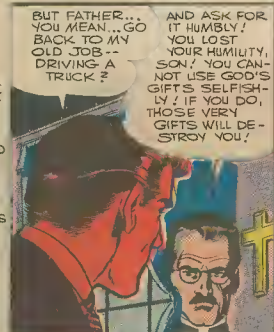
I KNEW THEN THAT I HAD PLAYED OUT MY LUCK. I WENT HOME... BROKE. BECAUSE EVERY CENT I HAD WAS SUNK IN THE HOUSE...

I CAN'T GET A THING IN MY MIND. WHAT'LL I DO? IF I DON'T GET IT, I'LL BE RUINED!

YOU REMEMBER YOUR CHAPLAIN, FRED? THE ONE IN YOUR COMPANY? YOU USED TO TALK SO MUCH ABOUT HIM -- WHY NOT GO AND SEE HIM?



I THOUGHT AMY WAS CRAZY. BUT BECAUSE I HAD NOWHERE ELSE TO TURN, I FOLLOWED HER ADVICE! THE CHAPLAIN NOW WAS THE PASTOR OF A SMALL CHURCH OUTSIDE THE CITY...



BUT FATHER... YOU MEAN... GO BACK TO MY OLD JOB -- DRIVING A TRUCK?

AND ASK FOR IT HUMBLY! YOU LOST YOUR HUMILITY, SON! YOU CANNOT USE GOD'S GIFTS SELFISHLY! IF YOU DO, THOSE VERY GIFTS WILL DESTROY YOU!



END

LEARNING TO BE HUMBLE AGAIN WAS THE MOST DIFFICULT THING I'VE EVER DONE! BUT IT WAS WORTH IT! NOW SOMETIMES I STOP WHILE DRIVING BY OUR HOME / TO SEE THE HAPPINESS IN AMY'S FACE AS SHE GREET'S ME WITH OUR BABY. HAS MADE IT ALL WORTH WHILE -- AND I HAVE HAPPINESS, WHICH IS GOD'S GREATEST GIFT! I NEED NO OTHER!





# WERNER'S DREAM CAR



John Bodel had carefully examined the list of his employees. Then he dropped the sheet of paper onto his desk and turned around to speak to his brother, George.

"Hod another fight with Helen last night. She wants that mink coat. No use trying to tell her how tight business is. She's just like her mother. A one track mind. Only this one ends up at Wittman's Fur Store."

"So you think you have trouble," interrupted brother George. "Elaine wants a big wedding. The kind that will top the society page. I tried to hint to her she should elope. Her temper is worse than her mother's. Well, what do we do?"

"We start cutting the payroll by getting rid of some of the old timers. We hire younger help at half the salary. I notice the name of Albert Werner. He's been with us for ten years in charge of the filing. In fact he's the entire department himself. I'll send for him and give him two weeks notice," replied brother John.

John Bodel started to press the button on his desk when the door to his office opened. It was the law in the plant that you never, never opened the door to the private office of the two brothers. First you had to be announced. Into the office walked a man in his early forties. He was beginning to get bald.

"The name is Albert Werner," began the man. "I thought it best to come before you sent for me."

"Some nerve," snapped back brother George. "You were outside the door listening to us speak."

"Wrong guess," smiled the man. "That would be a terrible thing to do. Utterly immoral. The Werner family couldn't think of listening to conversation on the other side of a door. I had a dream last night that you two decided to fire me and replace me with a girl just out of high school for a fraction of my salary."

"So you're fired," half shouted George. "Now get out of here."

Albert Werner didn't move an inch, and he was still smiling as he continued to speak.

"You can't fire me because you can't replace me. Nobody but myself can handle your filing department."

"A kid can do it," said John. "You just have to know the letters of the alphabet and look up the things we want under the proper letter."

"Alas," sighed Albert Werner, "that isn't the way I have been filing things for the past ten years. True you still have the same letters in the alphabet, but Crossway Cab Company isn't filed under the letter C. It is filed under the letter G because Mr. Crossway is an angry man. Tax Receipts aren't filed under the letter C. They are filed under the letter D because they make a big dent in your bankroll. Get it?"

For the next five minutes there was utter silence in the office. Brothers John and George weren't exactly morons. They had one of the largest plants making automotive parts in the United States. They could understand it would be impossible to get anyone to make sense out of such a filing system. Brother George spoke.

"So you stay. Let's forget the entire matter."

"So I stay," sort of echoed Albert Werner. "But first, I get a thirty per cent raise in salary. Second, I come into this office to tell you whenever I have a dream, and you must listen. Third, you do no firing because this plant is headed for great things."

The two brothers never knew exactly why they consented to those terms. The sheer nerve of the man had upset them. Next month they planned to bid on a government contract. Without the data in the filing room, it would be impossible to prepare such a bid.

The next week wasn't exactly pleasant in either of the Bodel families. Helen Bodel was still without her mink coat. And Elaine didn't like her father's attitude when he suggested they might have a wedding that would be different: Dutch treat with the guests bringing their own lunch in shoeboxes. Exactly a week later, Albert Werner walked into the private office of the two brothers. He placed four spark plugs on the desk.

"I had another dream," he began. "And it

was in calars. No mare block ond white dreams. On a table I saw four spork plugs. One was blue, one was green, one was orange, ond one was yellow. Go for the wamen trade. Give them calared spork plugs. That will be the sensenon of the trade."

The two brothers looked at the spark plugs and then at Albert Werner. There was such confidence in the attitude of this man.

"We can wark out a royalty deal later," he said. "I trust you. After all, my dreams will bring you millions. So you must da right by me."

The Bodel colored spark plugs were the sensation of the year. And it was naw o definite fact that wamen did the buying when it come to getting spork plugs. They wanted the colors to match their new dress or hat.

The two brothers were sitting in their office when Albert Werner walked in with a big pock-oge under his arm. He opened it ond placed o contropion on the desk.

"I had onother dream," he begon. "I was driving to the country when the cor next to me got closer. I pressed the harn button ond instead of noise, it begon to talk. Told the cor next to me it was too close. Here you hove the talking harn. It has pre-recorded topes. You just press the proper button. It can shout to o pedestrian ond tell him whot to do."

The Talking Horn caught the automobile people by complete surprise. It was so simple they wondered why somebody hadn't figured it out before. The nome of Albert Werner was on the potent papers ond he was naw o frequent guest of the homes of both brothers. Eloine was still single. She had returned her fifth engagement ring. She was definitely becoming interested in the man.

"But he always has such o dreamy look on his face," she complained to her fother.

"You woke him up ond get disinherited," threatened George Bodel. "His dreams ore worth millions to us."

There come o day when inventory had to be taken. Albert Werner was absent on that day. The brothers called him up on the phone. He would be ever the next day. He had a dream. Whot o dream!

The two brothers were waiting anxiously when Albert Werner walked into the affice. On his right hond he hod Eloine. She already knew the secret of his dreams. He still looked

dreomy.

"I had onother dream," he begon. "Yau were taking inventory. Discovered you have in the plant o fortune in unsold cor parts. What can be done with them? That's your problem. In my dream I saw the parts come down from the shelves. They oll got together ond made themselves into a cor. That's the salution to the excess inventory." Yau put out the Werner Cor Kit. Make your own cors from parts. A project for the family. Spend the evening home in the family gorage or in the basement."

"It's a wonderful dream," added Elaine. "Think whot it will meon to families that want o cor and hove o low bank account. They can buy same of the parts ond more later."

"Is my daughter getting into your dreams or hoving them on her own account," asked George Bodel.

There was no answer to that question os the pair left the affice. The brothers knew whot had to be done. They colled up Spiegel, Carcoron, ond Macini, the advertising people. The Big Three in the outa field thought of first it was o gog. Then those cors appeared on the street. Each hod its own individual touch, but each bore the some nome plate: Werner Dream Cor. Business was so good that the Big Three found they had to sell parts to the Bodel Brathers to make the many kits that were in demand. Fram all over the world, fram Iceland to Kenya, come orders.

The two brothers sort af knew when they would get o next visit from their dream genius. The door to the office opened ond in walked Albert Werner with Elaine.

"Don't soy o word until I hove said something," pleaded George Bodel. "I had o dream. After all, why should you hove oll the dreams. In it I sow my daughter Elaine decide she had finally found the right mon. So she convinced you to elape. Save me o lot of money for o big wedding. Even though I hove more than I can ever spend. Thanks to you Albert, my new son-in-law. Furthermore, you come here to ask far on interest in the business. I have the papers on the desk all made up. Is my dream right?"

"It has to be right," said Albert Werner who was going to get the last word. "Because lost night I had a dream that you would have this dream which you hod."

— THE END —





UNUSUAL TALES

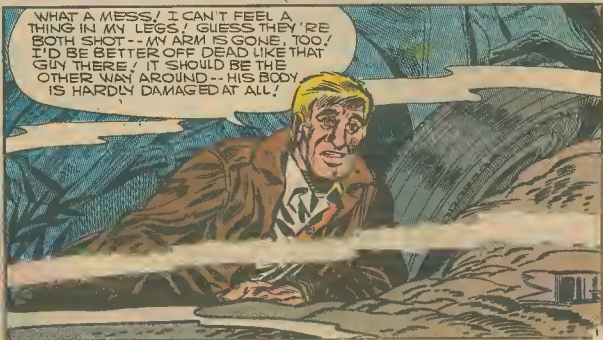
# I AM YOU, JOHN

TAKE A MODERATELY SUCCESSFUL YOUNG WHITE COLLAR WORKER NAMED JOHN ALLEN -- GIVE HIM A FAIRLY NEW CAR AND PUT HIM ON THE HIGHWAY ON A FOGGY NIGHT. THEN ADD ME, RIP WORDEN, DRIVING MY OWN TRUCK ON A RUSH JOB TO THE CITY -- ADD A BLOW-UP, AND YOU GET THIS...



THERE WAS VERY LITTLE TRAFFIC ON THE ROAD THAT NIGHT! I MUST'VE BEEN UNCONSCIOUS QUITE A WHILE BEFORE I CAME TO...

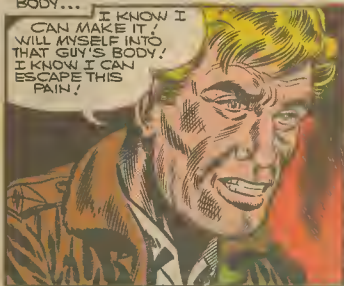
WHAT A MESS! I CAN'T FEEL A THING IN MY LEGS! I GUESS THEY'RE BOTH SHOT -- MY ARM IS GONE, TOO! I'D BE BETTER OFF DEAD LIKE THAT GUY THERE! IT SHOULD BE THE OTHER WAY AROUND -- HIS BODY IS HARDLY DAMAGED AT ALL!



# UNUSUAL TALES

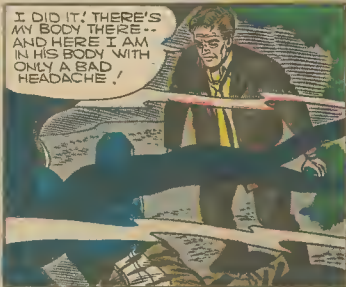
I GUESS I WAS ALMOST OUT OF MY MIND, AND WHAT I REALLY WANTED WAS TO GET OUT OF MY USELESS, SHATTERED BODY...

I KNOW I CAN MAKE IT! WILL MYSELF INTO THAT GUY'S BODY! I KNOW I CAN ESCAPE THIS PAIN!



AND I DID! AT FIRST FOR ONLY THE FRACTION OF A SECOND! THEN, FOR ALMOST A MINUTE...

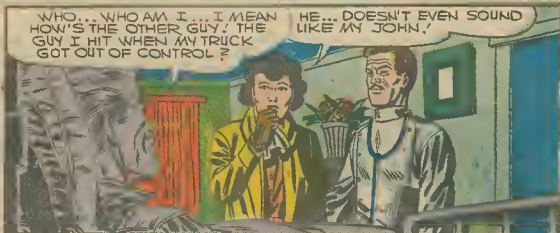
I DID IT! THERE'S MY BODY THERE-- AND HERE I AM IN HIS BODY WITH ONLY A BAD HEADACHE!



I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT... WHEN I CAME TO IN THE HOSPITAL I ASKED THE FIRST BURNING QUESTION IN MY MIND...

WHO... WHO AM I... I MEAN HOW'S THE OTHER GUY! THE GUY I HIT WHEN MY TRUCK GOT OUT OF CONTROL?

HE... DOESN'T EVEN SOUND LIKE MY JOHN!



HE'S STILL DAZED, MRS. ALLEN LET HIM REST NOW! AND, RIP, THE TRUCK DRIVER IS BADLY MANGLED-- STILL IN A COMA!

I WAS JOHN ALLEN FOR ALMOST A WEEK... WHILE THE PART OF ME THAT WAS RIP WORDEN CLUNG TO A SPARK OF LIFE IN ANOTHER ROOM! THEN THINGS BEGAN TO CHANGE...

...AND I WAS! THE MIND OF JOHN ALLEN RETURNED FROM WHEREVER IT HAD GONE! I WAS BACK IN MY OWN BATTERED FRAME...



I FEEL AS THOUGH I'M BEING PUSHED BACK INTO MY OWN MANGLED BODY...



YOU'RE CONSCIOUS! THIS IS WONDERFUL! I'LL CALL THE DOCTOR!

YEAH, WONDERFUL! I WAS DOIN' A LOT BETTER IN THE ROOM ACROSS THE HALL!



## UNUSUAL TALES

A WEEK PASSED... JOHN ALLEN WAS FULLY RECOVERED AND BACK ON HIS JOB WHILE I WAS STILL UNDER SEDATIVES BEING PATCHED UP...

YOU'RE GETTING BETTER, WORDEN! YOUR BODY WILL HEAL... BUT SOMETHING ELSE BOTHERS ME...

LISTEN, DON'T TRY TO MAKE IT WORSE THAN IT IS! MY MIND IS OKAY, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE DRIVING AT!



YES, IT IS OKAY, AS YOU PUT IT--PERHAPS STRONGER THAN MOST PEOPLE'S! IT'S WHAT YOU'RE DOING WITH IT THAT'S WRONG! WHY DID YOU TRY IT, WORDEN? WHY DID YOU TRY TO BECOME JOHN ALLEN?



IT WAS A CRAZY IDEA, DOC! I'M GLAD IT'S OVER! ALLEN SEEMS TO BE A NICE GUY, FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD!

HE IS, RIP-- NOW GET SOME SLEEP, GIVE THOSE LEGS A CHANCE TO HEAL!



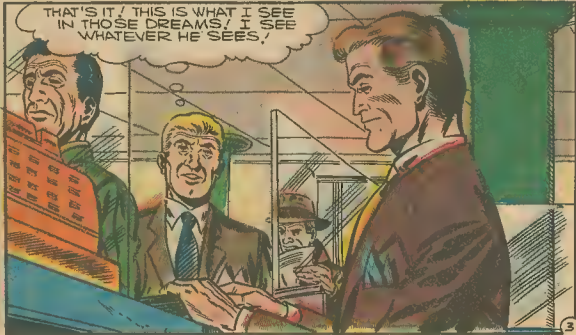
TWO MORE MONTHS WENT BY -- I WAS DOING FINE, THEY SAID, BUT THEY COULDN'T SEE INSIDE MY MIND...

THERE IT GOES AGAIN! I KEEP SEEING THAT LITTLE HOUSE WITH THE WHITE SHUTTERS! OTHER TIMES IT SEEMS LIKE I'M IN A CAGE LOOKIN' OUT!



THEN THEY LET ME OUT-- WITH ONE LEG STIFFENED UP SO I COULDN'T DRIVE ANY MORE! I HAD TO START OUT AT A NEW JOB! I TRIED OFFICES, FACTORIES, EVEN BANKS! IT WAS IN A BANK THAT I SAW JOHN AGAIN...

THAT'S IT! THIS IS WHAT I SEE IN THOSE DREAMS! I SEE WHATEVER HE SEES!





# UNUSUAL TALES

MAYBE IF I DIDN'T GET THE JOB AS GUARD IN THE BANK IT WOULD'VE BEEN ALL RIGHT... BUT I GOT IT! FROM THEN ON I WAS TO SEE JOHN ALLEN EVERY DAY...

GOOD MORNING, MR. ALLEN! YOU WOULDN'T REMEMBER ME, WOULD YOU?

I... NO, BUT YOUR FACE IS FAMILIAR! YOU'RE NEW HERE, AREN'T YOU?



THAT'S RIGHT-- BUT WE'VE MET BEFORE! ON ROUTE EIGHT-- HEAD ON! DO YOU STILL HAVE THOSE HEADACHES OVER YOUR RIGHT EYE?

YES, BUT--HOW DID YOU KNOW? I DIDN'T EVEN TELL THE DOCTORS!



SEEING HIM EVERY DAY, IT GOT STRONGER. I WATCHED HIM COUNT HIS MONEY IN THE CAGE THROUGH HIS EYES... I EVEN SAW HIM MAKE A FEW MISTAKES...

YOU'RE RIGHT-- BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW? LET'S CALL IT A HUNCH! YOU'RE UP-SET WITH THE BABY COMING AND ALL!

THAT DID IT! HOW DID YOU KNOW MY WIFE IS EXPECTING A BABY? THE DOCTOR ONLY TOLD HER YESTER-DAY!

IT... I JUST GUESSED, THAT'S ALL! LET GO!



I DON'T HAVE TIME TO TALK, MR. WORDEN! LET ME PASS!

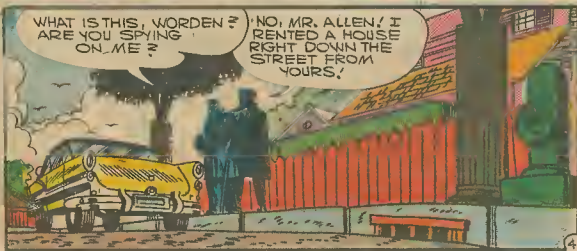
YOU'D BETTER CHECK YOUR MONEY AGAIN, MR. ALLEN! I THINK YOUR FIGURES ARE WRONG!



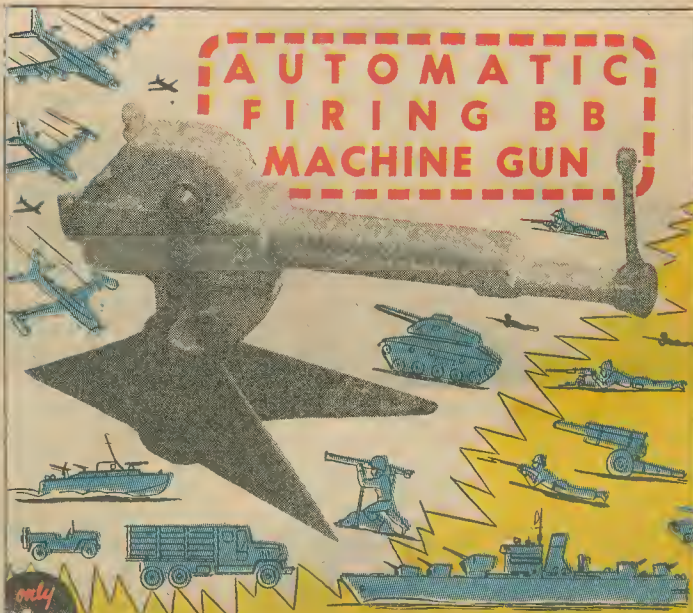
I COULD ONLY GET INSIDE JOHN ALLEN'S MIND WHEN I WAS NEAR HIM... ON THE JOB, FOR INSTANCE! IT WAS LIKE READING EVERY OTHER PAGE IN A BOOK! I HAD TO GET THE ENTIRE STORY, SO...

WHAT IS THIS, WORDEN? ARE YOU SPYING ON ME?

NO, MR. ALLEN! I RENTED A HOUSE RIGHT DOWN THE STREET FROM YOURS!



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only  
1.00

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  - tanks
  - gunners
  - trucks
  - cruisers
  - battleships
  - jet planes
  - bombers
  - riflemen
  - space ships
  - full supply of BBs

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☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postman on delivery plus a few cents postage.

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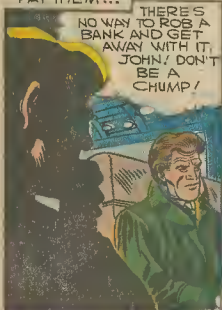
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## UNUSUAL TALES

I SAW MORE THROUGH JOHN ALLEN'S EYES THEN.. WORRIED WITH HIM ON THE COMMUTER'S TRAIN, THOUGHT ABOUT THE BIG BILLS HE OWED AND HOW IMPOSSIBLE IT WAS TO PAY THEM...



THERE'S NO WAY TO ROB A BANK AND GET AWAY WITH IT, JOHN! DON'T BE A CHUMP!

I WAS READING ABOUT A BANK TELLER WHO TRIED JUGGLING HIS ACCOUNTS! HE WAS CAUGHT AND SENT TO PRISON! HAD A NICE FAMILY, TOO!



ARE YOU TRYING TO DRIVE ME CRAZY? GET AWAY FROM ME!

LISTEN, JOHN! DON'T DO IT! DON'T... I'VE HAD ENOUGH!



I SAW IT, MISTER! YOU TELL THE CONDUCTOR-- HE'LL HAVE HIM PINCHED!

NO! IT WAS MY FAULT! THE POOR GUY DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HE'S DOING!



I WAS BEGINNING TO BE FRIGHTENED FOR JOHN! JUST BEFORE HIS WIFE WENT TO THE HOSPITAL TO HAVE THE BABY WAS THE WORST...

HE MEANT IT, EVERY WORD! THEN, WITHOUT TURNING, I SAW THE GUN IN THE MAN'S HAND BEHIND ME...

DON'T ASK ME HOW I KNOW, ALLEN, BUT YOU'D BETTER MAKE THOSE FIGURES RIGHT BEFORE YOU LEAVE! YOU CAN'T GET AWAY WITH IT!

IF I HAD A GUN, WORDEN, I'D SHOOT YOU!

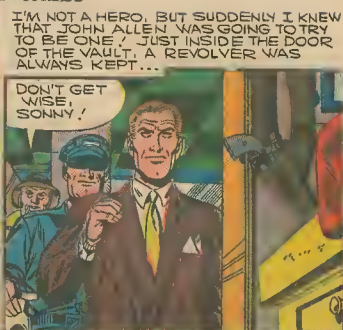


I GOT A GUN-- AND I'LL USE IT IF ANYONE TRIES TO GET SMART! FILL THIS BAG WITH BIG-BILLS!

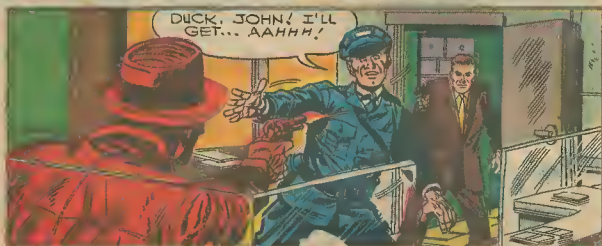




# UNUSUAL TALES



I SAW  
JOHN  
LUNGE  
FOR THE  
GUN, IT  
SAW THE  
GUNMAN  
JERK  
HIS  
HAND  
UP AND  
AH...  
AND I  
STEPPED  
BETWEEN  
THEM...



THEN I WAS GOING, AND I  
COULDN'T SEE MYSELF  
THROUGH JOHN'S EYES  
ANY MORE! SUDDENLY I  
WAS GLAD IT WAS OVER,  
GLAD FOR BOTH OF US...

HE'S...GONE! FUNNY,  
I FEEL DIFFERENT! THE  
WAY I USED TO FEEL  
BEFORE THE ACCIDENT!  
MY MIND IS  
CLEAR AGAIN!



END

# UNUSUAL TALES

# ALL EYES ARE RIVETED

WHEN FIRST THE FORMATION OF FLYING SAUCERS APPEARED IN EARTH'S SKIES, PEOPLE WERE WORRIED, THEN FRIGHTENED BY THESE MYSTERIOUS VISITORS FROM OUTER SPACE WHO DID NOTHING BUT ENDLESSLY CIRCLE THE EARTH...



THE ARMED SERVICES WORKED FEVERISHLY OVER THE PROBLEM...

WE'RE HELPLESS BECAUSE THE RANGE IS TOO GREAT FOR OUR INTERCEPTORS!

WE HAVE ALERTED ALL GROUND FORCES TO STAND BY FOR IMMEDIATE MOVEMENT!



NEWSPAPERS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY TRIED TO FIND OUT ABOUT THESE FRIGHTENING CRAFT...

JOE, IT'S YOUR JOB TO GET INFORMATION! GET IT IF YOU HAVE TO BUILD A SAUCER AND FLY IT YOURSELF!



# UNUSUAL TALES

BUT THERE WERE PLACES WHERE BUSINESS WENT ON AS USUAL...

BUT, GENTLEMEN, WE ARE DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PROMOTE THE MERCHANDISE!

I'M NOT SAYING THAT YOU'RE NOT WORKING! I'M SIMPLY WONDERING WHETHER WE SHOULDN'T USE SOME OTHER METHOD!

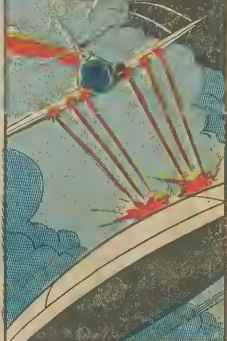
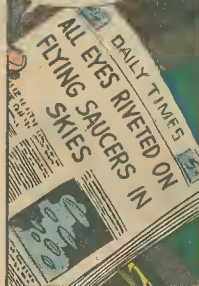


BUT WE'VE NEVER HAD A MORE SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN! NO ONE ELSE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PLAN AND EXECUTE SO AMBITIOUS A CAMPAIGN!

IN THE SKIES, THE CHASE WAS ON...

CATCHER TO BASE...AM IN THE MIDDLE OF THEIR FLIGHT! WILL OPEN FIRE!

BULLETS HAVE NO EFFECT ON TARGET! NO RETURN FIRE-- I DON'T GET IT!



MEANWHILE THE ADVERTISING CONFERENCE WENT ON...

YOU MAY BE RIGHT... BUT IT SEEMS A STRANGE WAY TO ADVERTISE OUR PRODUCT AND TIME IS GETTING SHORT!

THIS IS THE GREATEST TEASER CAMPAIGN EVER! EVERY MAN ON EARTH HAS SEEN YOUR CROCKERY, BEEN IMPRESSED WITH THE COLOR AND DESIGN, KNOWS THAT EVEN BULLETS CAN'T CRACK IT...





# UNUSUAL TALES

...AND AS SOON AS OUR GOVERNMENT ALLOWS MARTIANS TO TRAVEL TO EARTH WE'LL BE ABLE TO POINT OUT TO EARTHLINGS THAT THESE SAUCERS OF YOURS ARE ALREADY AVAILABLE AT THEIR STORES.



ELSEWHERE IN MARS, PREPARATIONS WERE GOING FORWARD FOR A HISTORIC EVENT...

MR. SECRETARY, WHY DO YOU FEEL THAT WE'LL BE ABLE TO ESTABLISH FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE EARTHLINGS WHEN WE'VE LANDED?

IT'S SIMPLE -- WE GO UNARMED, SHOWING WE'RE FRIENDLY AND WE BRING THEM COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS TO ESTABLISH TRADE RELATIONS. NOW, I MUST HURRY.



ON EARTH, OPINION WAS MORE CONFUSED THAN EVER, BUT FEARS HAD LESSENED...

HEY, JOE, DID YOU SEE THIS?

YEAH -- AND THE STORY SAYS THEY MIGHT BE A COMMERCIAL PRODUCT FROM MARS!



I DON'T KNOW! MAYBE IT'S RIGHT! THEY SURE HAVEN'T TRIED TO HURT ANYBODY!

THAT'S RIGHT, BUT YOU'D HAVE TO PROVE IT TO ME!



ON MARS THERE WAS NO LONGER ANY DOUBT...

NOW WE CAN GO AHEAD, THE EARTHLING PRESIDENT IS CONVINCED WE'RE PEACEFUL.

I'LL ORDER THE FIRST SHIPMENT OUT IMMEDIATELY!

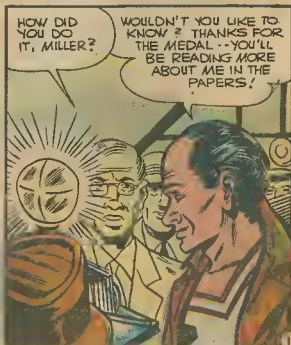
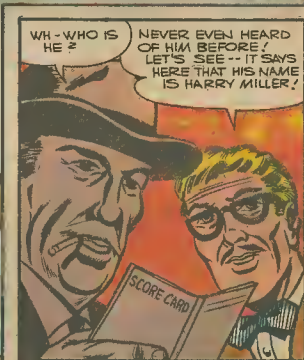
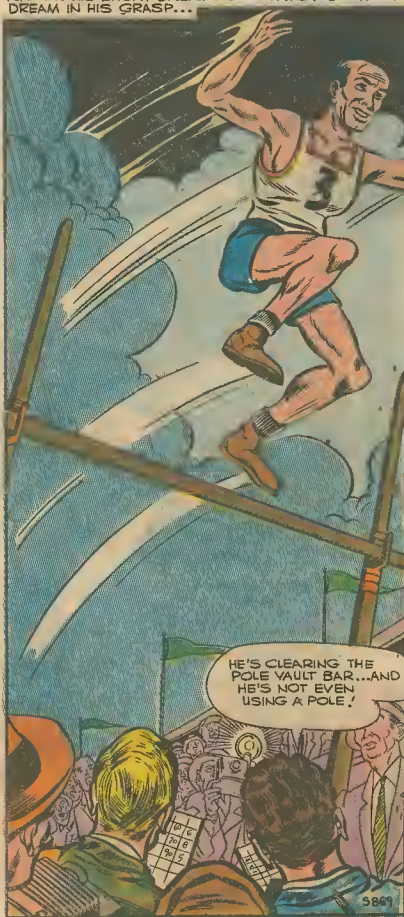


END

UNUSUAL TALES

# GOING UP

**H** HE WAS A NOBODY... A DISGRUNTLED RUNT WHO UP TILL NOW, HAD SPENT MOST OF HIS LIFE FLAT ON HIS BACK, DREAMING OF FAME! BUT NOW AT LAST, HE HAD THE FULFILLMENT OF THAT DREAM IN HIS GRASP...



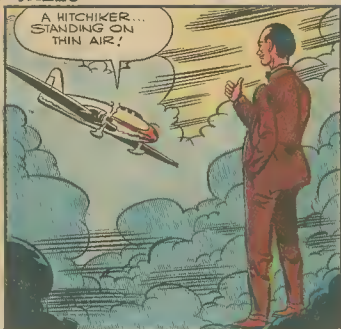
# UNUSUAL TALES

THE VERY NEXT DAY...



D-DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?

YEAH-- BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!



A HITCHIKER...  
STANDING ON  
THIN AIR!

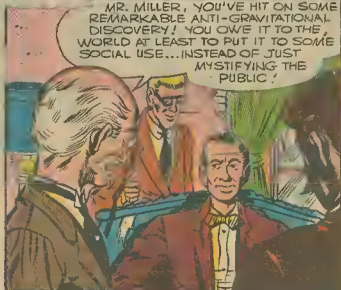
LATER...



YOU CAN'T KEEP  
A STORY LIKE THIS  
UNDER WRAPS,  
MILLER! HOW DO  
YOU DO IT?

CAN'T I?  
JUST (YAWN)  
WATCH ME!

AFTER THE REPORTERS LEAVE, THE SCIENTISTS  
ARRIVE...



MR. MILLER, YOU'VE HIT ON SOME  
REMARKABLE ANTI-GRAVITATIONAL  
DISCOVERY! YOU OWE IT TO THE  
WORLD AT LEAST TO PUT IT TO SOME  
SOCIAL USE... INSTEAD OF JUST  
MYSTIFYING THE  
PUBLIC!

DO I? WELL,  
I'LL (YAWN)  
THINK  
ABOUT IT!



CAN'T YOU  
TALK TO  
HIM, MRS.  
MILLER?

I'VE BEEN MARRIED TO HIM  
FOR TEN YEARS NOW, AND  
HE'S NEVER DONE ONE THING  
I'VE TOLD HIM TO... LOOK AT  
THIS HOUSE...

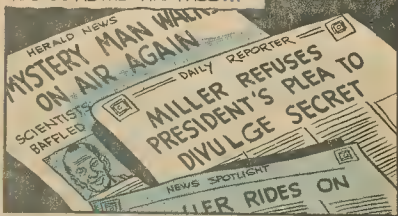




# UNUSUAL TALES

...THE WALLS--THE SHELVES!  
EVERYTHING'S FALLING APART,  
BUT WILL HE EVER LIFT A  
FINGER TO REPAIR IT?

AND SO AS THE DAYS PASS...



AND HARRY MILLER KEEPS SMILING...

I'M MAKING A BIG SPLASH ALL  
RIGHT! IT SURE FEELS GOOD  
AFTER BEING A NOBODY ALL MY  
LIFE! TO MAKE THE HEADLINES  
EVERY DAY...



"HMMP... LAST MONTH THIS  
TIME I WAS NOTHING BUT A  
HENPECKED STICK-IN-THE-  
MUD WHOM NOBODY HAD EVER  
HEARD OF..."

HARRY, FIX  
THAT SHELF BE-  
FORE IT COMES  
CRASHING DOWN, AND  
TAKE THAT JUG OFF  
BATTERY WATER OFF  
THE WINDOW SILL!

LET THEM BOTH CRASH  
DOWN. WHO CARES?  
NOW GET OUT, HUH?  
I WANT TO TAKE  
A NAP!



I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I'D  
BEEN NAPPING WHEN THE  
THAT LIGHTNING BOLT HIT...

HEY!



# 500

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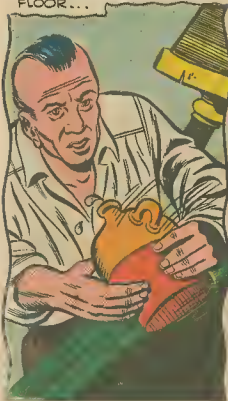
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BACK OF THE N.Y.  
PARADISE

# UNUSUAL TALES

I MANAGED TO CATCH THE JUG  
JUST BEFORE IT HIT THE  
FLOOR...



JUST ONE TINY DROP OF THE  
WATER HAD SPLASHED ONTO  
ME! BUT SUDDENLY...



I - I DON'T KNOW WHAT  
THIS IS ALL ABOUT! ALL  
I KNOW IS THAT A TINY  
DROP OF THIS DISTILLED  
WATER ON A MAN SINCE  
IT WAS HIT BY LIGHTNING  
MAKES THE MAN  
FLY!



I'D BE CRAZY TO TELL THEM MY SECRET,  
IF I DID, THEY'D ANALYZE THE  
WATER, PUT IT INTO PRODUCTION...  
EVERYBODY WOULD BE WALKING  
ON AIR AND THEY'D FORGET  
ALL ABOUT ME...



WHY SHOULD I BE?  
IT'S ME THEY COME  
TO SEE-- NOT THE  
HOUSE! SO WHAT  
IF A FEW SHELVES  
ARE SAGGING?  
THAT WON'T STOP  
THE BIG SHOTS  
FROM COMING  
HERE!



HARRY, HOW CAN YOU STAND EVERY-  
THING BEING SO ROUNDOWN? ALL  
THOSE IMPORTANT PEOPLE COMING  
HERE EVERY DAY... AREN'T YOU  
ASHAMED OF HOW  
THE HOUSE LOOKS?



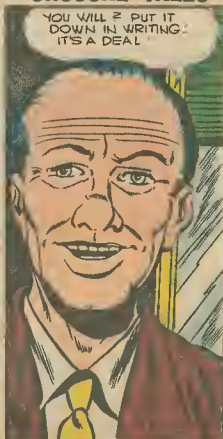
BUT NOW HARRY MILLER HAS  
BEEN CALLED TO WASHINGTON!  
ON THE ADVICE OF A GROUP  
OF PSYCHIATRISTS WHO HAVE  
MANAGED TO PUT THEIR  
FINGER ON WHAT MAKES THE  
SPINDLY RUNT TICK, THE  
GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES  
MAKE A LAST DESPERATE  
APPEAL...



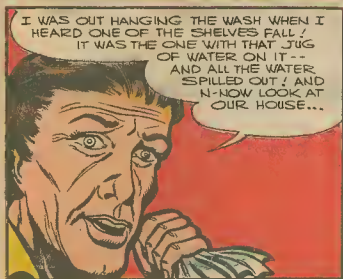
HERE'S OUR  
PROPOSITION,  
MILLER! WE KNOW  
WHAT YOU'RE AFTER,  
AND WE'RE WILLING  
TO GIVE IT TO YOU...



# UNUSUAL TALES



BUT WHEN HARRY MILLER ARRIVES...

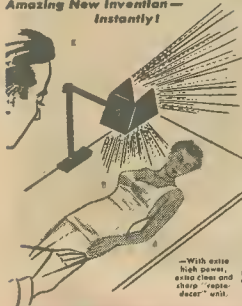


END

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sharp "repro-  
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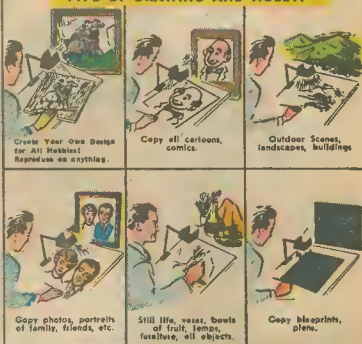
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TYPEWRITER



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